THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) IFFCO's growth plans were discussed in the Board with a view to take decisions regarding future investments. Investment in Insurance sector was considered as one of the thrust areas having business potential. It may be mentioned that the investment decisions are taken by the Board of IFFCO subject, however, to the approval of the Government, if required.

Pricing Commitment for Urea from Oman-India Fertilizer Project

4261. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision on the long-term pricing commitment for the off take of urea from joint venture Oman-India fertilizer project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons there for ;

(d) whether Government are facing resistance from the Planning Commission and Finance Ministry against the fixed price agreement;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (f) Approval for setting up an ammonia-urea complex in Oman in joint venture with oman Oil Company was accorded by the Government of India in 1997. On account of subsequent sharp decline in urea prices in the international market, it became necessary to revise and restructure the project. The restructured project inter alia includes the long term pricing commitment. The government will take a decision on the long term pricing commitment on merits after taking into account all relevant factors.

Synthetic Fibre Industry

4262. SHRI RAMACHANDRA RUMANDALA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the synthetic fibre industry is facing shut down on account of foreign competition; and